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Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS

for March 1964

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U.S. DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE National Bureau of Standards

Ivational Durcau of Standards

Number 12/Issued December 1963

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Luther H. Hodges, Secretary



NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS A. V. Astin, Director

Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

Ionospheric Predictions

for March 1964

[Formerly "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," CRPL Series D.]

Number 12
Issued
December 1963

The CRPL Ionospheric Predictions are issued monthly as an aid in determining the best sky-wave frequencies over any transmission path, at any time of day, for average conditions for the month. Issued three months in advance, each issue provides tables

of numerical coefficients that define the functions describing the predicted worldwide distribution of foF2 and M(3000)F2 and maps for each even hour of universal time of MUF(Zero)F2 and MUF(4000)F2.

Note: Department of Defense personnel see back cover.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (June 19, 1961).

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, Price 15 cents,

Annual subscription (12 issues) \$1.50 (50 cents additional for foreign mailing).

National Bureau of Standards

The functions of the National Bureau of Standards are set forth in an Act of Congress, March 3, 1901, as amended. These include the development and maintenance of the national standards of measurement and the provision of means and methods for making measurements consistent with these standards; the determination of physical constants and properties of materials; the development of methods and instruments for testing materials, devices, and structures; advisory services to government agencies on scientific and tech-

nical problems; invention and development of devices to serve special needs of the Government; and the development of standard practices, codes, and specifications. The work includes basic and applied research development, engineering, instrumentation, testing, evaluation, calibration services, and various consultation and information services. The Bureau also serves as the Federal technical research center in a number of specialized fields.

Central Radio Propagation Laboratory

The Central Radio Propagation Laboratory at Boulder, Colorado, is the central agency of the Federal Government for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information on propagation of radio waves at all frequencies along the surface of the earth, in the atmosphere, and in space, and performs scientific studies looking toward new techniques for the efficient use and conservation of the radio spectrum. To carry out this responsibility, the CRPL—

- 1. Acts as the central agency for the conduct of basic research on the nature of radio waves, the pertinent properties of the media through which radio waves are transmitted, the interaction of radio waves with those media, and on the nature of radio noise and interference effects. This includes compilation of reports by other foreign and domestic agencies conducting research in this field and furnishing advice to government and nongovernment groups conducting propagation research.
- 2. Performs studies of specific radio propagation mechanisms and performs scientific studies looking

toward the development of techniques for efficient use and conservation of the radiofrequency spectrum as part of its regular program or as requested by other government agencies. In an advisory capacity, coordinates studies in this area undertaken by other government agencies.

- 3. Furnishes advisory and consultative service on radio wave propagation, on radiofrequency utilization, and on radio systems problems to other organizations within the United States, public and private.
- 4. Prepares and issues predictions of radio wave propagation and noise conditions and warnings of disturbances in these conditions.
- 5. Acts as a central repository for data, reports, and information in the field of radio wave propagation.
- 6. Performs scientific liaison and exchanges data and information with other countries to advance knowledge of radio wave propagation and interference phenomena and spectrum conservation techniques, including that liaison required by international responsibilities and agreements.

Introduction

The "Central Radio Propagation Laboratory Ionospheric Predictions" is the successor to the former "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions," CRPL Series D. To make effective use of these predictions, National Bureau of Standards Handbook 90, "Handbook for CRPL Ionospheric Predictions Based on Numerical Methods of Mapping," should be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, price 40 cents. This Handbook includes required additional data, nomographs and graphical aids, as well as methods for the use of the predictions. The Handbook supersedes the obsolete NBS Circular 465.

The basic prediction appears in tables 1 and 2, presenting predicted coefficients for foF2 and M(3000)F2 defining the numerical map functions describing the predicted worldwide variation of these characteristics. With additional auxiliary information, these coefficients may be used as input data for electronic computer programs solving specific high frequency propagation problems. The basic equations, their interpretation, and methods of using the numerical maps are described in two papers by W. B. Jones and R. M. Gallet, "The Representation of Diurnal and Geographic Variations of Ionospheric Data by Numerical Methods," Volume 66D, Number 4, July–August 1962, pages 419–438, and "Methods for Applying Numerical Maps of Ionospheric Characteristics," Volume 66D, Number 6, November–December 1962, pages 649–662, both in the Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards, Section D. Radio Propagation. The predicted numerical map coefficients of tables 1 and 2 may be purchased in the form of a tested set of punched cards. Write to the Prediction Services Section, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado, to arrange for the purchase of the set of punched cards and for further information and assistance in the application of computer methods and numerical prediction maps to specific propagation problems.

The graphical prediction maps, derived from the basic prediction, are provided for those unable to make use of an electronic computer. Figures 1 to 12 present world maps of MUF (Zero) F2 and MUF (4000) F2 for each even hour of universal time. Figures 13 to 16 present the same predictions for hours 00 and 12 universal time for the North and South Polar areas. Predicted polar maps for each even hour of universal time may be obtained by special arrangements with the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory. Handbook 90 describes methods for including regular E-F1 propagation. Figure A is a graph of predicted and observed Zürich sunspot numbers which shows the recent trend of solar activity. Table A lists observed and predicted Zürich smoothed relative sunspot numbers and includes the sunpot number used for the current prediction.

Members of the U.S. Army, Navy, or Air Force desiring the Handbook and the Ionospheric Predictions should send requests to the proper service address; for the Navy: The Director, Naval Communications, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C., 20350; for the Air Force: Directorate of Command Control and Communications, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Washington, D.C., 20330. Attention: AFOCCAA. Army personnel should refer to the Handbook as TM-11-499 and to the monthly predictions as TB 11-499-(), predictions for the month of March 1964 being distributed in December 1963 and designated TB 11-499-(12), and should requisition these through normal publication channels.

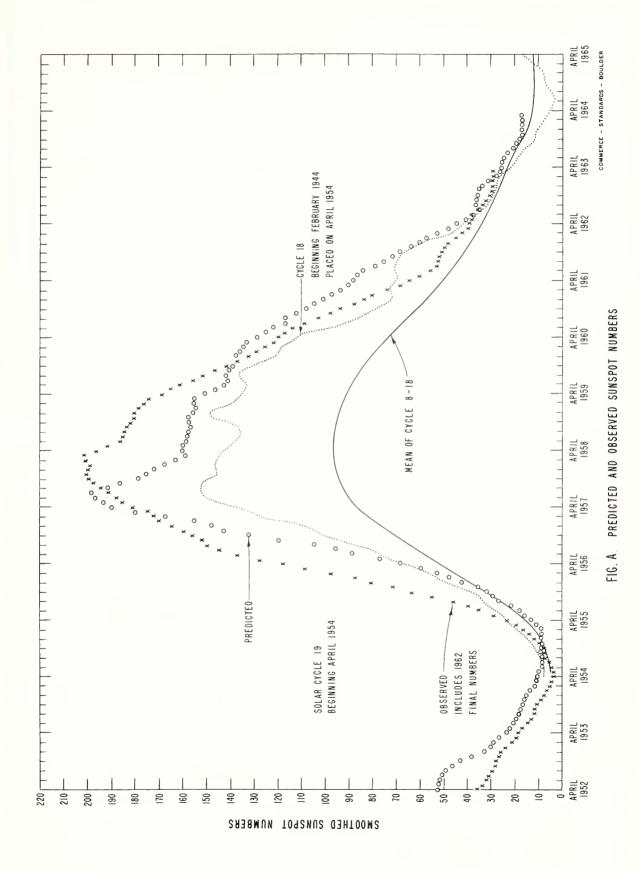
Information concerning the theory of radio wave propagation and such important problems as absorption, field intensity, lowest useful high frequencies, etc., is given in National Bureau of Standards Circular 462, "Ionospheric Radio Propagation." A revised work is in preparation which will be announced in the Ionospheric Prediction series when available. Additional information about radio noise may be found in C.C.I.R. Report Number 65, "Revision of Atmospheric Noise Data," International Telecommunication Union, Geneva, 1957.

Reports to this Laboratory of experience with these predictions would be appreciated. Correspondence should be addressed to the Prediction Services Section, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Ju1y	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1952	43	42	39	36	34	32	31	29	28	28	27	26
	(53)	(51)	(52)	(52)	(52)	(52)	(51)	(49)	(46)	(43)	(38)	(33)
1953	24	22	20	19	17	15	13	12	11	10	9	7
	(30)	(29)	(27)	(24)	(22)	(21)	(20)	(18)	(18)	(17)	(16)	(15)
1954	6	6	4	3	4	4	5	7	8	8	10	12
	(14)	(12)	(11)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(10)	(10)	(11)
1955	14	16	20	23	29	35	40	46	55	64	73	81
	(12)	(14)	(14)	(13)	(16)	(18)	(22)	(27)	(30)	(31)	(35)	(42)
1956	89	98	109	119	127	137	146	150	151	156	160	164
	(48)	(53)	(60)	(68)	(77)	(89)	(95)	(105)	(119)	(135)	(147)	(150)
1957	170	172	174	181	186	188	191	194	197	200	201	200
	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)
1958	199	201	201	197	191	187	185	185	184	182	181	180
	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)
1959	179	177	174	169	165	161	156	151	146	141	137	132
	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(146)	(143)	(141)	(142)	(141)	(139)	(137)	(137)
1960	129	125	122	120	117	114	109	102	98	93	88	84
	(136)	(135)	(133)	(130)	(125)	(120)	(118)	(115)	(110)	(108)	(105)	(100)
1961	80	75	69	64	60	56	53	52	52	51	50	49
	(100)	(90)	(90)	(90)	(85)	(85)	(80)	(75)	(70)	(70)	(65)	(60)
1962	45	42	40	39	39	38	36	34	32	31	30	30
	(60)	(50)	(48)	(45)	(42)	(37)	(34)	(31)	(29)	(28)	(27)	(34)
1963	29 (31)	30 (28)	30 (26)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(23)	(21)	(20)	(18)	(18)	(17)
1964	(17)	(17)	(17)*	:								

Note: Final numbers are listed through June 1962, the succeeding values being based on provisional data. The predicted numbers are in parentheses.

 $[\]mbox{\ensuremath{\raisebox{.3ex}{\star}}}$ Number used for predictions in this issue.



PREDICTED COEFFICIENTS DSK DEFINING THE FUNCTION F(1,8,1) FOR MONTHLY MEDIAN fo F2 (Mc/s)

TABLE 1

			7	1
4	8	-1,2969950E-01 -1,799014E-01 0,022662E-01 1,12559E 00 8,689101E-01 -1,87964 8E 00 -1,78268E 01 -2,78268E 01 -2,865668E 01 -2,685668E 01 -2,685668E 01 -2,685668E 01 -2,685668E 01 -2,685668E 00	-5.3467578E-05 -4.3677148E-05 -4.3677148E-07 -9.5271030E-01 -0.5270375E-01 -0.2746916 -0.3746966 -0.3746966 -0.371032E -0.376810E -0	-1.063194E-02 -2.05481E-01 -1.025481E-02 -2.110173FE-02 -2.110173FE-03 -4.0107592E-01 5.097692E-03 -6.110937E-03 -6.110937E-03
	7	2.0967244E-01 7.752594E-02 1.526931E-02 1.320995E-01 -4.172561E-01 -4.178651E-01 1.178651E-01 1.178651E-01 1.178651E-01 1.178651E-01 1.2487810E-01 1.2487810E-02 1.248781810E-02 1.24878	-5,3502923E-02 3,4155660E-02 -7,110134E-02 -2,631413E-02 -2,632360E-01 -2,422360E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,622361E-01 -3,62381E-	1.1503536-02 -2.7280509E-03 -2.4442726E-02 -1.7180926E-02 8.9442143E-02 1.95421E-02 1.95421E-02 1.95421816E-02 -1.7340305E-02
3	9	-5.1975608E-01 -3.0977568E-01 -1.0930088E-01 -1.093368E-01 -1.093367E-00 -1.788525E-01 -2.788525E-01 -3.445698E-01 -4.1182250E-01 -4.1182250E-01 -1.146648E-01	6.744541E-02 1.444468E-01 -1.54206E-00 -4.0206E-00 -4.0206E-00 -4.0401726E-00 1.0460384E-00 1.0460384E-00 1.0460384E-00 1.046038E-00 1.046038E-00 -1.046038E-00	4.6815299E 02 8.3740400E 02 -1.750916 1E 01 -2.0513400E 02 -2.150916 1E 01 2.2774299E 02 2.2776 1E 02 -5.1931711E 02 -5.193171E 02 -5.193171E 02 -5.193171E 02 -7.756846 02
	5	-2.7968380E-01 -7.2464986E-03 -2.46498E 00 9.126099E 00 2.590539E 01 -3.877900E 01 -3.877900E 01 -1.595010E 01 -6.0301098E 02 -6.0301098E 02 -1.24791E 02 -1.24791E 02	5.5421818E-02 4.3560753E-02 4.3560753E-02 4.3560754E-01 4.35813861E-01 4.396431E 00 1.396431E 00 1.396431E 00 1.396431E 01 1.7768318 1.1768318	-9.220088E-03 3.6188839E-02 -2.557577E-02 7.259814E-02 7.259814E-02 1.3688575-01 6.91804.5E-02 -1.8188955E-01 -5.478865E-01 -5.478865E-01 -5.478865E-01 -5.478865E-01 -5.478865E-01 -5.478865E-01
	4	4.8058380E-01 1527355E 01 11.5274.20E 01 11.7590.77 6 01 2.1174.98E 01 2.519870E 01 2.5125640E 01 2.5125640E 01 2.5125640E 01	4.2376.001E-02 1.1321921E-03 1.1321921E-03 1.106.8413E-01 1.568313E-00 1.508313E-00 1.508313E-00 1.208318E-00	-4.87254896.02 -4.33741126.02 2.1448816.01 1.18315156.02 1.2050336 00 -1.5053796.01 -2.53441666.01
2	ю	-6.5723575E-01 1.522805798 7.22805798 7.23805798 7.23805798 7.23805798 7.2380578 7.288059 7.1399978 1.1399978 1.1543858 1.1543868 1.39978 1.39	2.7466109E-0.2 7.1083231E-0.2 1.1083231E-0.2 2.7472609E 00 4.077257E 00 4.077257E 00 4.077257E 00 4.077257E 00 4.077257E 00 5.08073E 01 7.08073E 02 2.411779E 02	4.9624564E-02 -3.227610E-02 -1.5506276E-01 -3.8045617E-01 -2.8045617E-01 -3.3181090E-01 -3.3181090E-01 -3.8173521E-02 -3.58450E-01 -3.8173521E-02 -3.8173521E-02 -3.8173521E-03 -3.8173521E-03 -3.825597E-01
	2	1.91721836 00 -1.9397166 00 -4.925356 01 -7.6251016 02 1.9903138 02 5.5231417 02 -5.44101976 02 2.060517 02 1.9555446 02	2.50177855—0.2.2.303413429300—0.2.2.3033413429300—0.2.2.303413429300—0.2.2.2.303413429300000000000000000000000000000000000	-3.54.08526E-02 6.2207414E-03 -2.207414E-03 -2.8464380E-01 6.232018E-02 4.35018PTE-01 -1.2505968E-01 -1.5205968E-01 -1.5205968E-01 -1.5205968E-01 -1.5205968E-01 -1.5205968E-01 -1.5205968E-01
	_	2.5994092E 00 -4.837157E-01 -5.20647E 00 1.770961E 00 1.770961E 00 3.1276E-01 3.45908 00 -1.23678 00 3.457896 01 1.2812496 01 1.2812496 01	1.4460902E-01 1.3019466-02 1.3059846 00 3.4980218 00 1.4980218 00 1.4980218 00 1.4980218 00 1.49808 00 1.49808 00 1.44128 00 1.4	2.9398446-02 7.1181076-02 8.420866-01 1.8579586-01 1.8579586-01 -1.3471006 00 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02 -2.3796616-02
0	0	7,8031680E 00 -1,549314E 00 1,64855E 01 1,664852E 01 1,0691078 02 1,089104E 02 1,083184E 02 2,0390018 02 1,038194E 02 1,38194E 02 1,38194F 02 1,3819F	-7.7431956E-03 -4.195548E-05 -5.195548E-05 -2.31264.25E 00 -2.31264.25E 00 -4.92330E 01 -4.921951E 01 -4.921951E 01 -9.9386E 02 -4.7838.26 02 -4.7838.26 02 -2.56744E 02 -2.56744E 02 -2.56746E 02 -2.56746E 02 -1.059551E 03 -2.9576 02 -1.059579E 03 -1.059579E 03 -1.059579E 03 -1.059579E 03 -2.469770E 03 -2.4697	1,3808989E-01 5,8430055E-03 -5,913835E-02 -6,3102806E-02 -9,191773E-02 -3,22233189E-01 -2,2233189E-02 5,8005482E-02 1,155969E-01
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-7.8780842E-02 -1.2649175E-02 1.4625086E-01 8.5300808E-03 -6.0833766E-02

6.4514854E-02 1.8469580E-03 -8.5458648E-02 -4.0061374E-03 8.5907332E-03

-1.0702080E-01 4.5682184E-04 1.1145311E-01 -3.8564138E-03

1.8827802E-01 1.0894537E-03 -2.0047246E-01 0

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	4	-1.1720262E-01 -4.477063E-02 -1.2515027E-01 1.553669E-01 4.9893697E-01 -1.6231724E-01 -3.813385E-01 5.3218713E-02	1.1846807E-02 -3.4961541E-03 7.9409260E-02 6.51190956-02 -6.4381071E-02 -3.47641956E-02 -3.47641956E-01 -7.6437334E-01 -7.6437334E-01 -7.6437334E-01 -7.6437334E-01 -7.6437334E-01 -7.964087E 00 -1.559065E 00 -1.559065E 00 -6.1281384E-01 -1.280651E 00 -6.1281384E-01 -1.659065E 00 -6.1281384E-01 -1.0930337E 00	-1.4611973E-02 1.6730140E-02 -1.1155434E-02 -4.3207885E-02 1.8075699E-01 -2.6793165E-02 -1.9136165E-02 -1.9136165E-02 -2.7617481E-01
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	2	-3.2045389E-01 -1.0381138E-01 3.599136E 00 9.787793E-01 -1.0025540E 01 -1.9023512E 00 -1.908853E 01 1.042419	5.4670651E-02 -2.5576538E-03 -2.91106E-01 -5.968595E-01 -7.4613389E-02 -7.4613389E-02 -7.4613389E-02 -7.4613389E-02 -7.4613389E-02 -7.4613389E-02 -7.4613389E-01 -7.461339E-01 -7.461339E-01 -7.461339E-01 -7.461339E-01 -7.461339E-01 -7.755733E-00 -7.755733E-00 -7.755733E-00	1,4939097E-02 2,0011426E-02 -8,085753E-02 -6,5771060E-02 4,6185308E-02 -7,7875693E-02 2,563252E-01 2,663252E-01 1,9011518E-02
	-	-1.2132436E-01 -2.5078654E-02 5.7545920E-01 2.8695307E-01 -6.3574459E-01 -4.8404553E-01 1.0081183E-01 2.392564E-01 1.3891667E-01	-2.6048046E-02 -1.5299474E-01 -3.2687226E-01 8.4401743E-02 -2.5229827E-02 6.7529827E-02 -2.5229827E-02 -2.5229827E-02 -1.22906971E-01 1.22817401E-01 2.017401E-01 2.017401E-01 2.017401E-01 2.017401E-01 2.017401E-01 2.017401E-01 1.22817401E-01 2.4043539E-00 -3.1076127E-01 5.9198174E-01 2.4043539E-00	-1.2863309E-03 -7.7523813E-03 -1.4410277E-01 1.0917628E-02 -1.3989155E-02 8.5718403E-02 3.0541711E-01 1.6156332E-02
0	0	3,0267409E 00 -4,334334E-02 1,2657407E 00 5,733502E-01 -3,8239127E 00 -1,2542736E 00 4,0125628E 00 7,3538560E-01	-4.2822013E-02 -5.2127398E-02 1.2061859E-01 4.0931700E-01 4.0931700E-01 -4.594456E-01 -1.7318358E 00 -3.118358E 00 -3.118358E 00 -2.316404E-01 -2.8612902E 00 -2.8612902E 00 -2.8612902E 00 -2.8612902E 00 -2.8612902E 00 -2.8612902E 00 -2.2451873E-01 1.60099E-02 1.600493E 00	-1,5444629E-02 -1,000862E-02 -1,3348170E-01 2,1973512E-02 3,160744E-02 1,6110054E-02 3,2940412E-01
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GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION

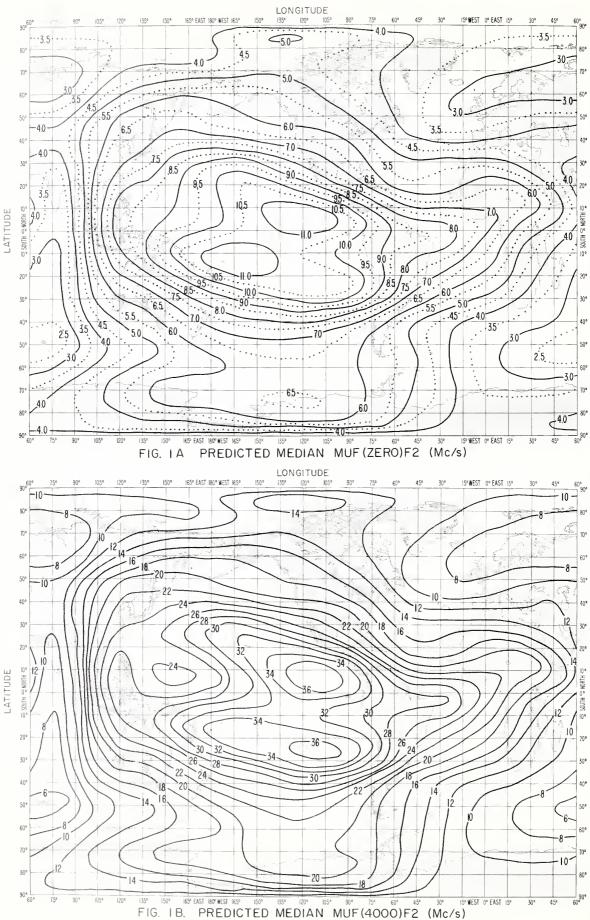
5	01 6	1.3370479E-02 4.0834509E-02 5.1257822E-03 4.1761307E-03 -1.5535852E-02 -3.7554399E-02
	80	
4	7	4.0867141E-02 3.1201055E-03 2.8856898E-03 -3.145084E-03 -3.4969386E-02 1.6835189E-03
Harmonic	ς/ \×	3 2 2 1 0

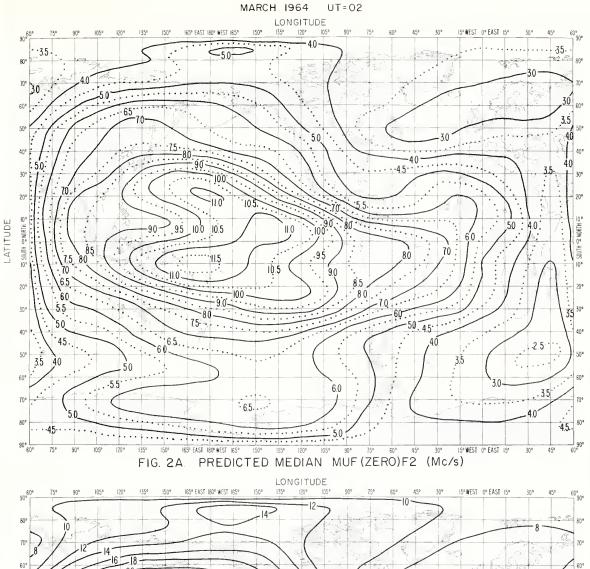
GEOGRAPHICAL

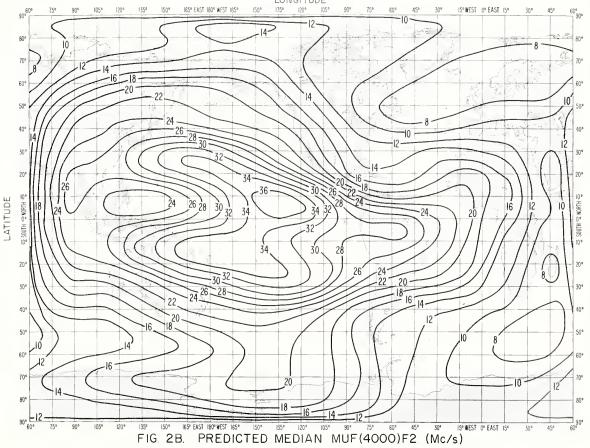
Notation: For each entry the number given by the first eight digits and sign is multiplied by the power of ten defined by the last two digits and sign. I - Main Tatitudinal variation. Mixed latitudinal and longitudinal variation: II - First order in longitude, III - Second order in longitude.

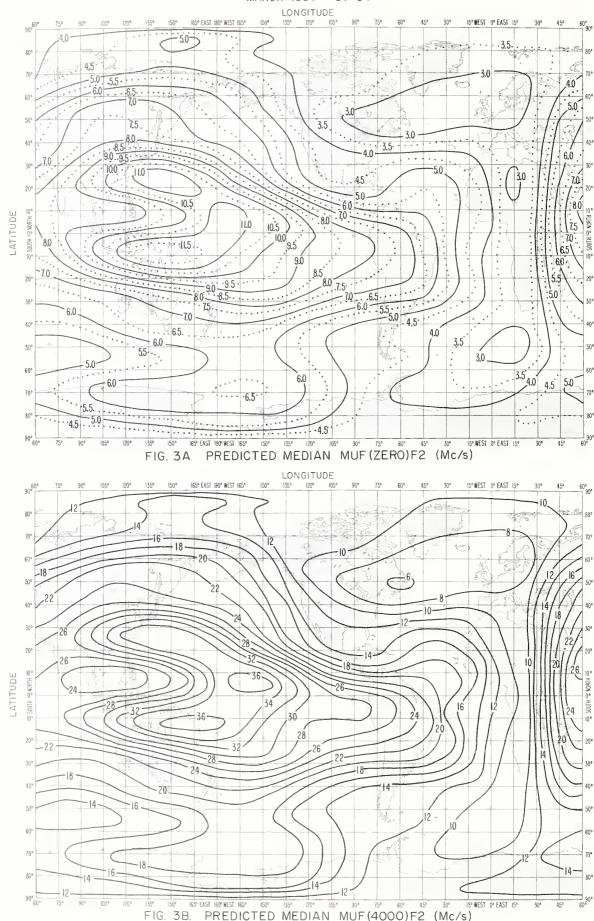
PREDICTED COEFFICIENTS D_{SK} DEFINING THE FUNCTION $\Gamma(\lambda,\theta,t)$ FOR MONTHLY MEDIAN M(3000)F2

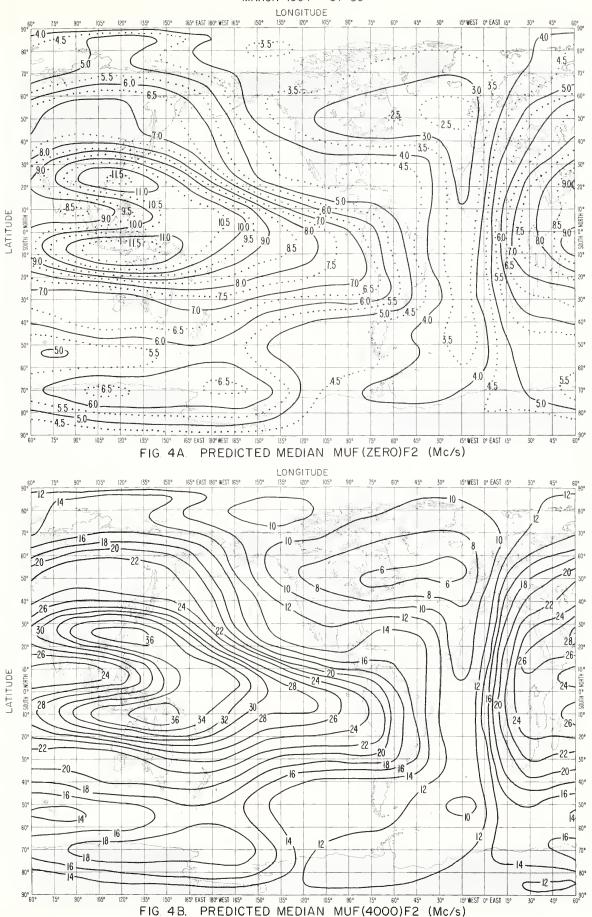
MARCH 1964

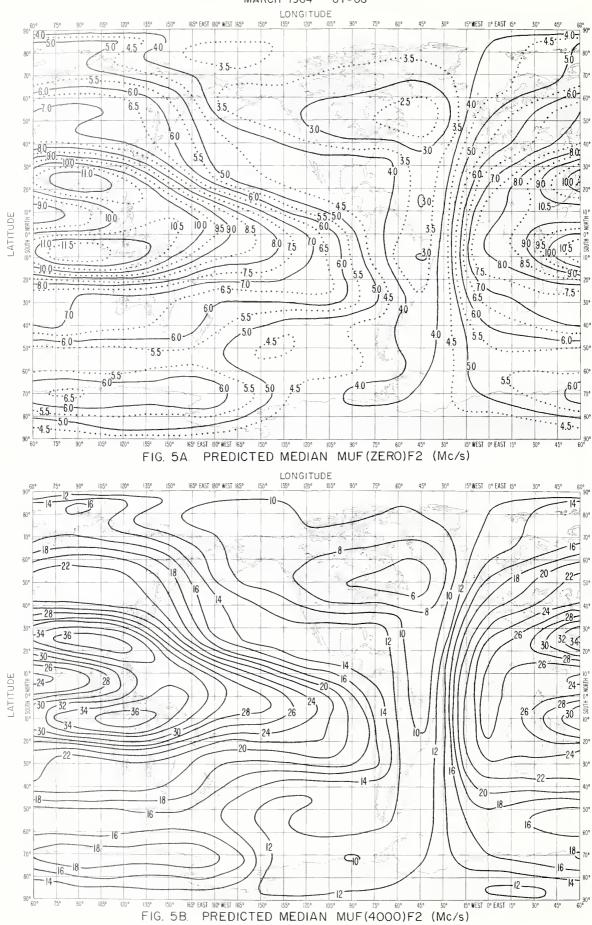


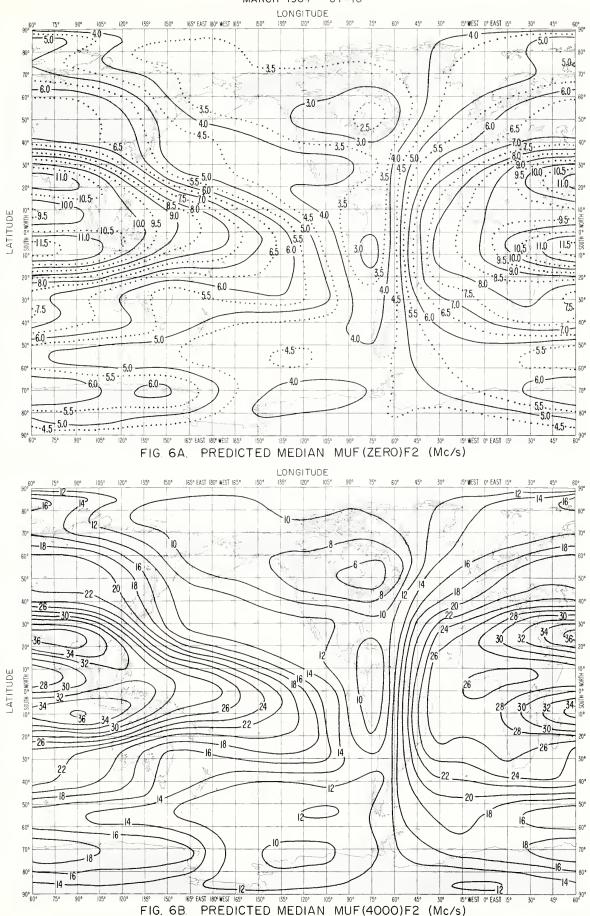


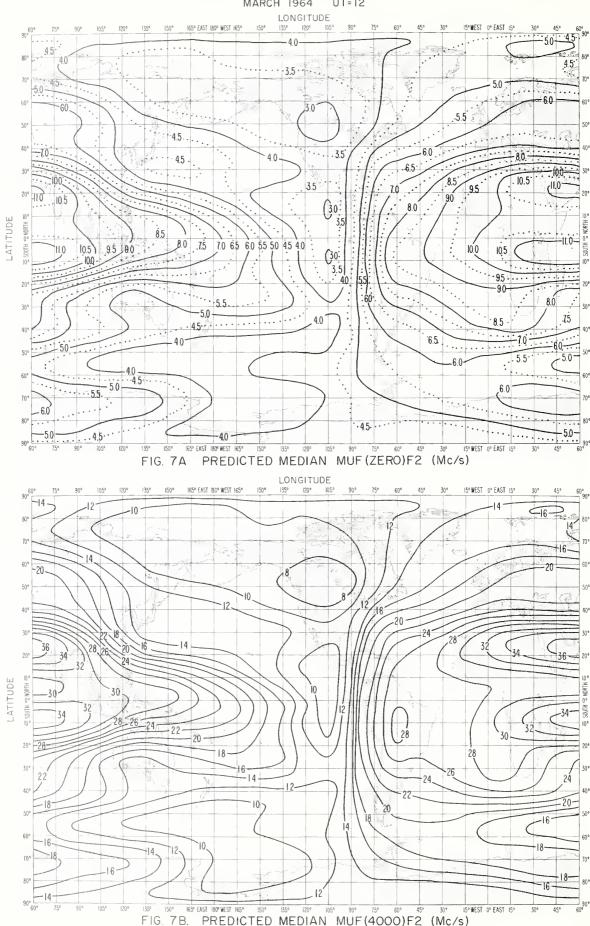


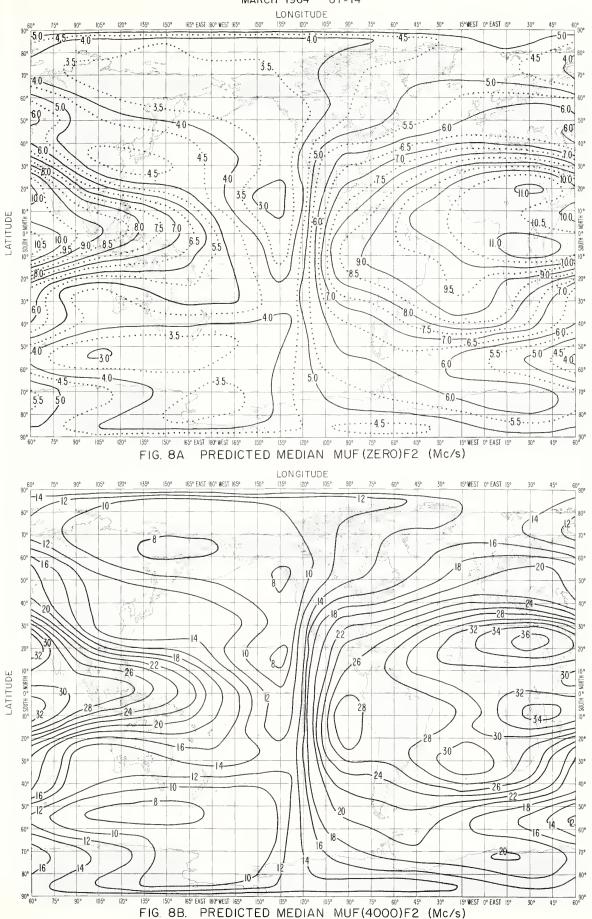


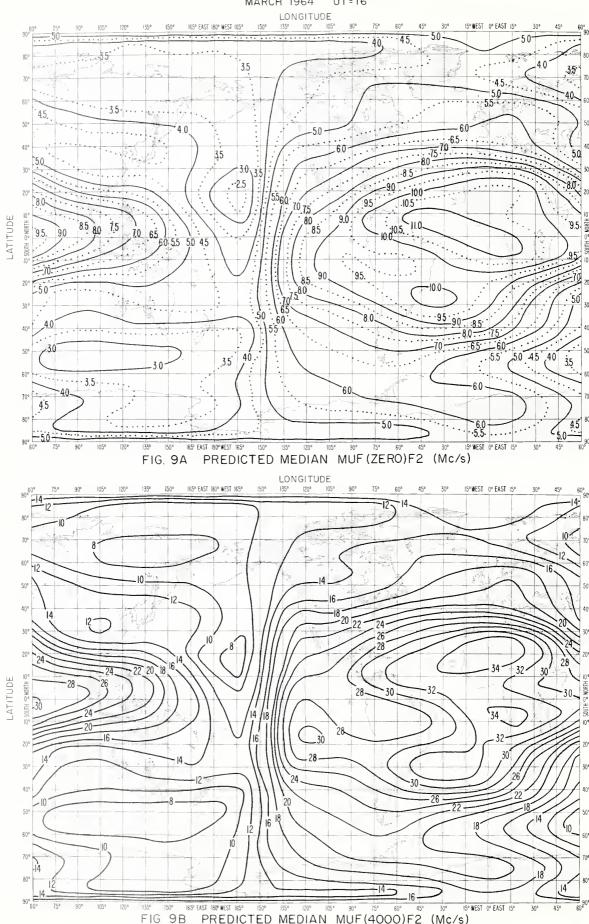


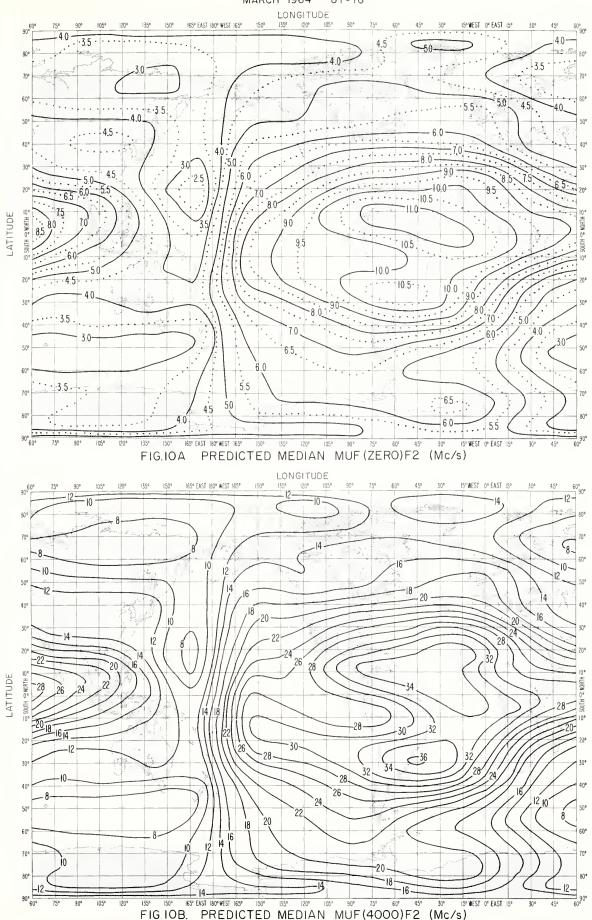


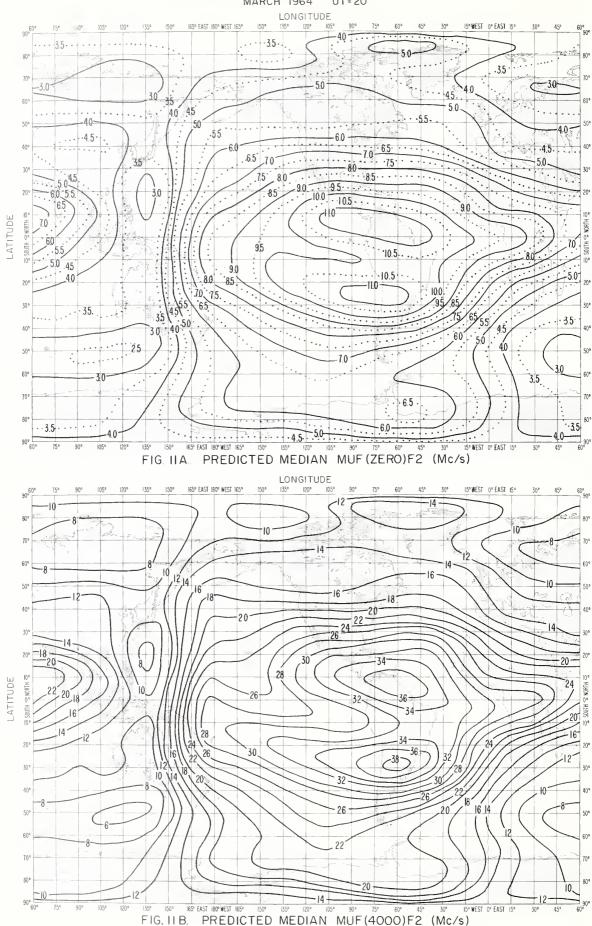


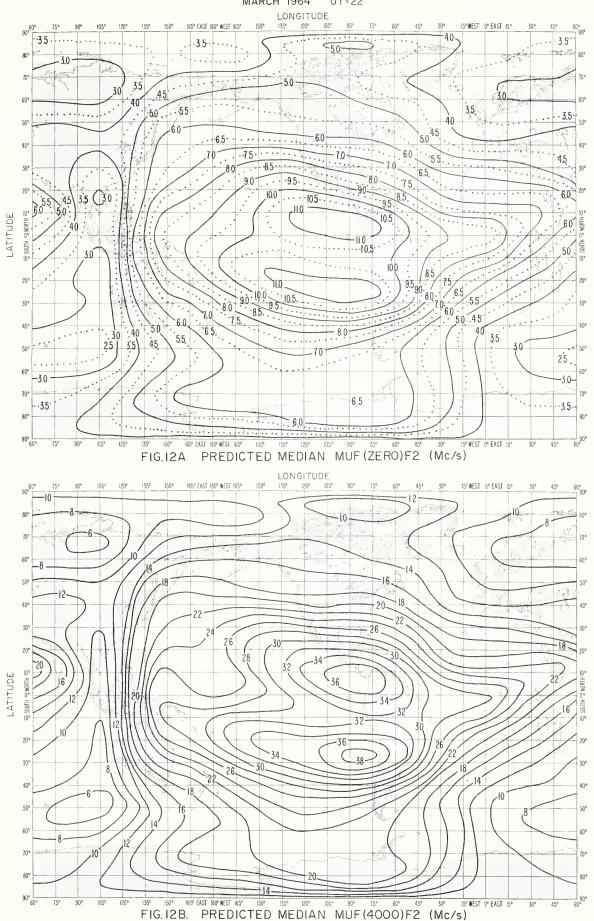












NORTH POLAR AREA MARCH 1964 UT = 00

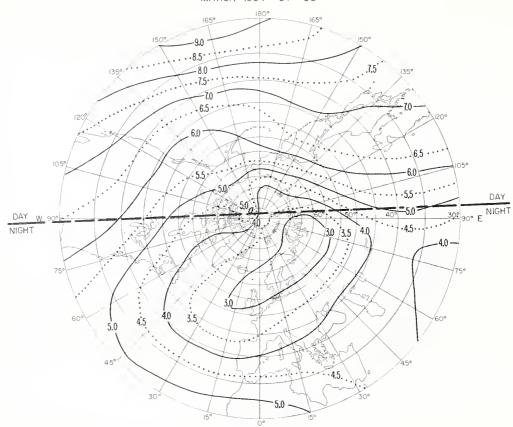


FIG. 13 A. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF (ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

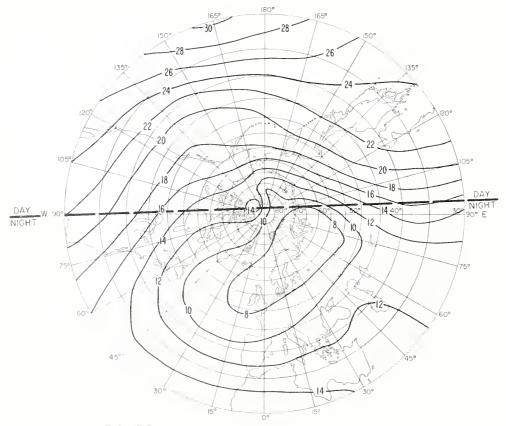
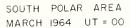


FIG. 13 B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF (4000)F2 (Mc/s)



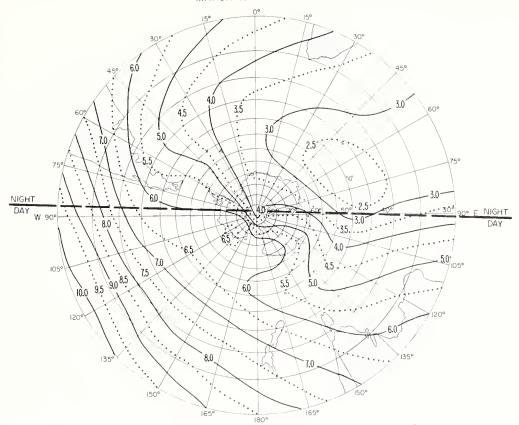
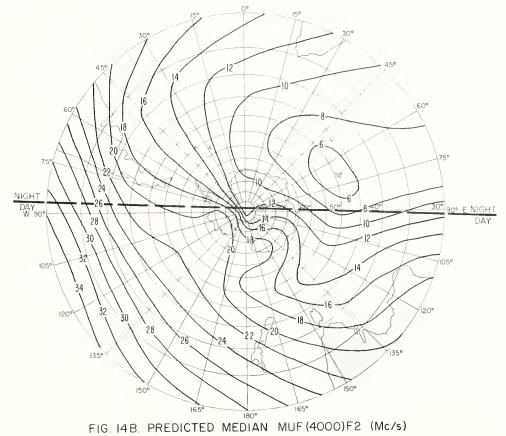


FIG. 14A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)





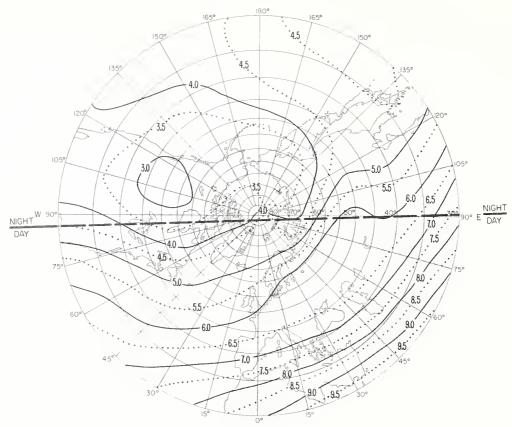


FIG. 15A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF (ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

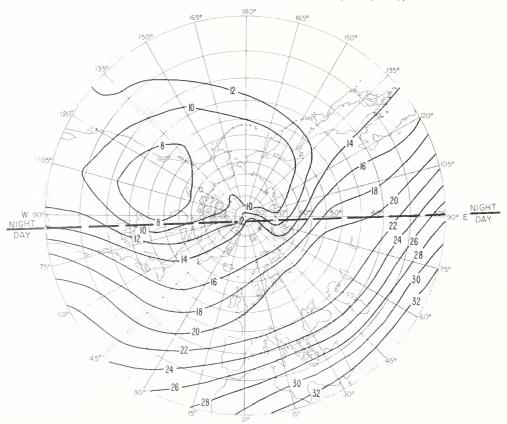
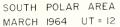


FIG. 15B PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF (4000)F2 (Mc/s)



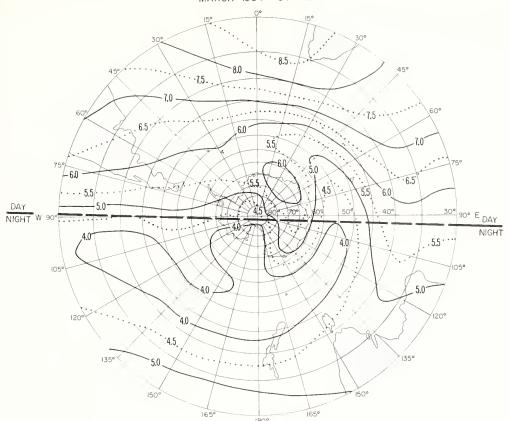


FIG. 16A PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF(ZERO)F2 (Mc/s)

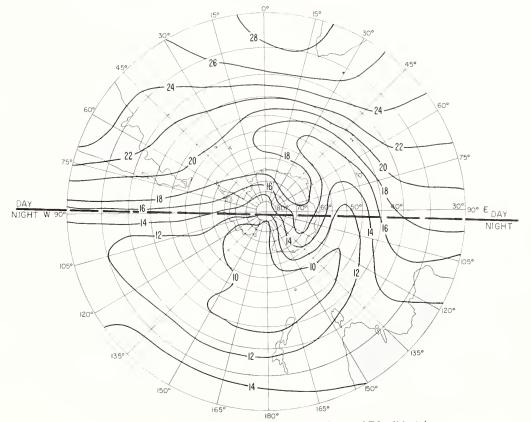
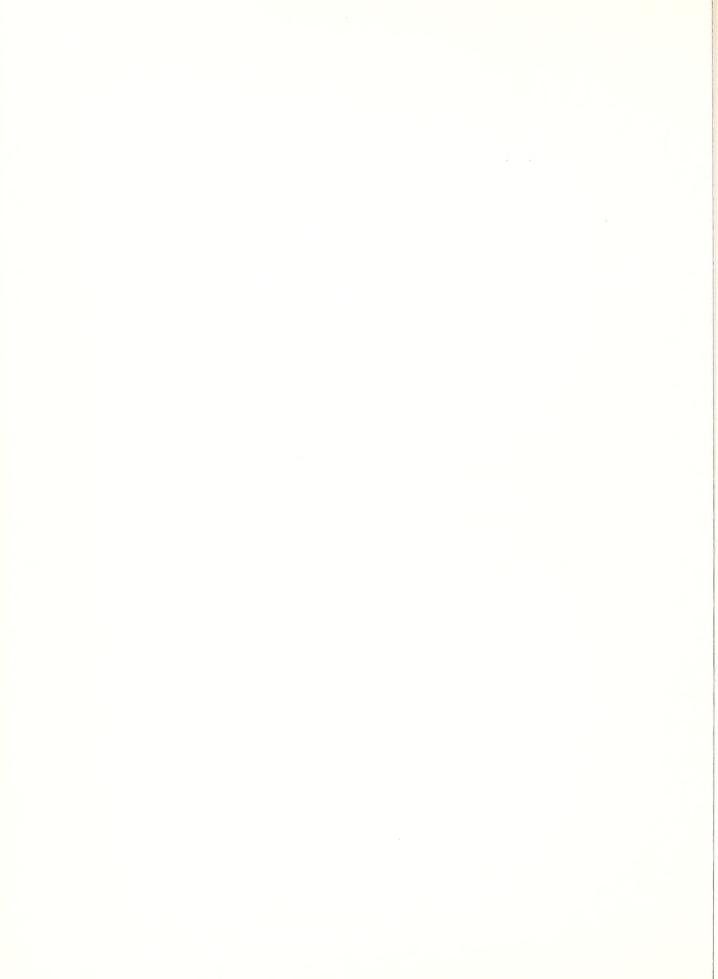


FIG. 16B. PREDICTED MEDIAN MUF (4000)F2 (Mc/s)



HANDBOOK for CRPL IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS

Based on Numerical Methods of Mapping

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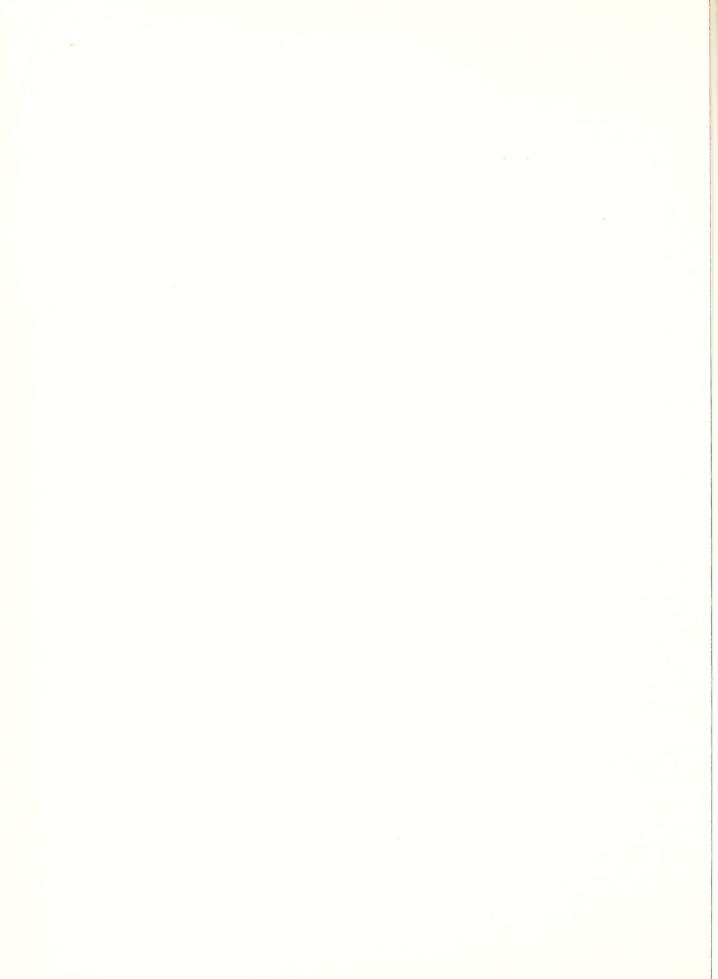
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WASHINGTON, D. C., 20301, 1 December 1963

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For explanation of abbreviations used, see AR 320-50.

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